

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION II

DATE:

JAN 13 1993

SUBJECT:

Technical Review of the "Rockaway River Sediment Ecological Assessment" for the Dayco Corp./ L. E. Carpenter and Co. Site

FROM:

Shari Stevens, Environmental Scientist *Shari Stevens*  
Surveillance and Monitoring Branch (ESD-SMB)

TO:

Jonathan Josepchs, Remedial Project Manager  
New Jersey Superfund Branch 2 (NJSB2-N)

As per your request, we have reviewed the "Rockaway River Sediment Ecological Assessment" for Dayco Corp./ L. E. Carpenter and Company, located in Wharton, New Jersey. We provide the following comments.

The data suggests a shift in macroinvertebrate populations which indicates some improvement in water quality as the distance from the site increases. The authors conclude that the impaired areas closer to the site are probably the result of increased suspended organics in the stream caused by the outfall of Washington Pond. This conclusion, that there is no site related impacts, appears to be subjective based on the evidence presented in the report.

Subsequent to review by our Regional Rapid Bioassessment Procedures (RBP) expert, who is familiar with the Rockaway River, we conclude that reference location 1, rather than reference location 2, is more applicable for making comparisons to the other sampling locations. Use of reference location 2, in this situation, creates a higher degree of uncertainty, particularly when drawing conclusions. Although the source of impairment would still be in question, the minimal impacts on the benthic community probably would not warrant additional investigations or remedial activities, at this time.

I hope these comments have been helpful. The BTAG and/or ESD is available to provide further assistance. If you have any questions, or require further information, please feel free to contact me at (908) 906-6994.

cc: Ray Basso, NJSB2  
Nickie DiForte, NJSB2-N

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